

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for variably generating cryptographic securities, for communications, in a host device, comprising the steps of:

for cryptographically securing a communication for a first purpose,
using a first signature;

for cryptographically securing a communication for a second purpose,
using a second signature; and

using a cryptographic algorithm of a first type to generate said first signature and using a cryptographic algorithm of a second type to generate said second signature, said cryptographic algorithms of said first type and said second type, for a same input set, respectively generating different respective outputs.

Claims 2-7 have been cancelled.

2-7. (Cancelled)

Claims 8-19 are cancelled.

8-19. (Cancelled)

Add the following new claims:

20. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising, in a read-only memory of a postal security device, storing a first program that, when executed, implements said cryptographic algorithm of said first type and

storing a second program that, when executed, implements said cryptographic algorithm of said second type;

upon a need for a communication for said first purpose, accessing said read-only memory of said postal security device, from a hardware unit outside of and in communication with said postal security device, and executing said first program in said hardware unit to secure said communication for said purpose with a first signature produced by said cryptographic algorithm of said first type; and

upon a need for a communication for said second purpose, accessing said second program from said read-only memory of said postal security device from said hardware unit and, in said hardware unit, executing said second program to secure said second communication for said second purpose with a signature generated by said cryptographic algorithm of said second type.

21. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising generating said first signature exclusively in a first logic module that executes said cryptographic algorithm of said first type therein under control of a first implementation program; and generating said second signature exclusively in a second logic module by executing said cryptographic algorithm of said second type therein under control of a second implementation program.

22. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21 comprising storing said first implementation program in said first logic module, and accessing said first implementation program from within said first logic module, and storing said second implementation program in said second logic module, and accessing said second implementation program from within said second logic module.

23. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21 comprising storing said first and second implementation programs in a postal security module accessible by each of said first and second logic modules, and accessing said first implementation program in said postal security device from said first logic module upon a need for a communication for said first purpose and accessing said implementation program in said postal security device from said second logic module upon a need for a communication for said second purpose.

24. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said first device contains a postal security device, and storing said first implementation program in a memory of said host device outside of said postal security device and storing said second implementation program in said memory of said host device outside of said postal security device, and accessing said first implementation program in said memory from said first logic module upon a need for a communication for said first purpose and accessing said second implementation program in said memory from said second logic module upon a need for a communication for said second purpose.

25. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising storing a plurality of algorithms selected from the group consisting of signing algorithms and hash algorithms in a read-only memory of a postal security device;

from a logic module outside of said postal security device having access to said read-only memory accessing a selected one of said algorithms upon a need for a communication for said first purpose and using said selected one of said algorithms as said cryptographic algorithm of said first type in said logic module to secure said communication for said first purpose; and

from said logic module, accessing a selected different one of said algorithms from said read-only memory of said postal security device and, upon a need for a communication for said second purpose, securing said communication for said second purpose in said logic module using said selected different one of said algorithm as said cryptographic algorithm of said second type.

26. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising employing the RSA algorithm as said cryptographic algorithm of the first type and employing a digital signature algorithm as the cryptographic algorithm of the second type.